



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** October 22, 2020

**Agenda Item:** Modification of Fur Dealer Requirements Clarifying 2020 Trapping Regulations

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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## **Background:**

The department proposed and the commission adopted a change to marten trapping reporting requirements in August 2020. The change eliminated the need for trappers to have martens physically inspected and tagged by the department and required trappers to report harvest and harvest data through the mandatory reporting system administered by the department. This change reduced the amount of physical contact among trappers and department personnel to reduce potential for Covid exposure while maintaining consistent data necessary for monitoring and managing harvest.

Inadvertently, the department overlooked the existing requirement within commission regulation that required fur dealers to purchase or possess only martens that had been tagged. For consistency and to truly eliminate the need for the physical inspection, marten needs to be stricken from the following statement contained within commission regulation:

"It shall be unlawful for any fur dealer or fur dealer agent to purchase or possess any untagged bobcat, otter, marten, fisher, or wolverine, except those untagged furs originating outside Montana that are accompanied by an export permit or other documentation of lawful acquisition."

**Public Involvement Process and Results:** Public comment will be accepted at the October commission meeting. In addition, any comment received at the August commission meeting addressing the change to physical inspection of martens harvested through trapping would be relevant – no substantive comment was received.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** The commission may choose to leave the trapping commission regulation as is without adopting this change. Due to the inconsistency within regulation, the department may be unable to enforce the regulation as written. The inconsistency may prove to confuse the public that engages in trapping of marten. The department believes that modifying and clarifying the regulation for consistency is the simplest option.

## **Proposed Motion:**

I move the commission vote to adopt the amended language in the trapping commission regulation proposed by the department that removes marten from the list of species harvested within Montana that must be tagged for lawful possession by fur dealers or fur dealers' agents.